

## **REMARKS**

### **DECLARATION OF CAPTAIN THOMAS J. SCOTT UNDER 37 CFR§1.132**

There is being submitted herewith a Declaration of a named inventor, Captain Thomas J. Scott under 37 CFR §1.132, which traverses the rejections contained in the Office Action mailed May 14, 2009 in the above-identified application. In addition, the Declaration of Captain Scott provides additional support for the claims as amended in the Amendment filed June 14, 2010, and as further amended in the present Amendment.

As Captain Scott's Declaration indicates, the elongated apertures in the deck plate of the vessel is intended to minimize strength losses in the deck plate, while permitting communication between the trunk and the tank therebelow, in the most effective manner.

### **ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

The Remarks presented in the Amendment filed June 14, 2010 with respect to the rejections contained in the Office Action mailed May 14, 2009 are hereby repeated in connection with the Declaration of Captain Scott submitted herewith.

Reconsideration of the claims as amended herein is respectfully requested.

### **FEES**

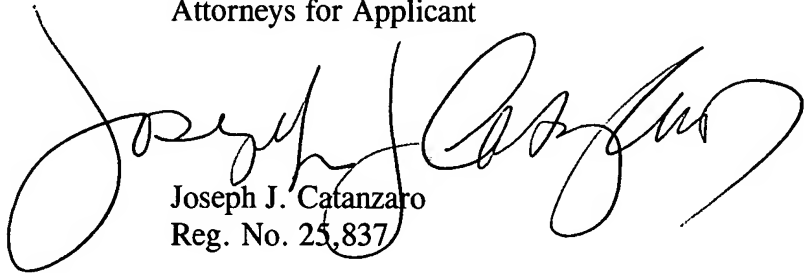
No fee is believed to be due in connection with the submission of the Declaration of Captain Scott. Please charge any fees which may become due to Deposit Account No. 01-0035 and credit any overpayment.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

The Amendment filed June 14, 2010 was accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with the requisite fee. The RCE requested suspension of examination for three (3) months.

In accordance with the request for suspension of examination for three (3) months contained in the RCE, that request was approved in a communication mailed July 21, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,  
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